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Paul Wyler

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REPORT ON THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES (ABA)

Hon. Paul Wyler

The National Conference of Administrative Law Judges membership consists of approximately 400 members, varying from time to time depending upon additions and resignations and the like. It would be instructive to have a breakdown of the membership of the NCALJ with respect to federal ALJ's and state ALJ's and the various states that are involved.

It should be pointed out that the federal ALJ's have their own associations. Social Security ALJ's have the Association of Administrative Law Judges which represent the Social Security judges. Some of the federal ALJ's are members of the Federal ALJ's Conference, a separate body from NCALJ.

What is important about NCALJ is basically its participation in the work of the American Bar Association. As a member of the Judicial Administration Division, the NCALJ has a delegate in the House of Delegates, and in this way has a voice in the actions of the American Bar Association, a most important body.

In addition, NCALJ has representatives on the Council of the Judicial Administration Division, an important element of the American Bar Association, and in this way is able to have an additional input into the affairs of both the Judicial Administration Division and the American Bar Association.

The publications of the NCALJ are significant. In addition to a column in the Quarterly Journal of the Judges' Journal, which is published by the Judicial Administration Division and goes out to all judges who are members of the American Bar Association, and which contains a column written by the current chair of the NCALJ each year, four times a year, more or less, they also have a newsletter about the work of the NCALJ. NAALJ drastically and desperately needs a newsletter, and without that newsletter I believe the work of NAALJ is severely restricted, impeded and curtailed.

Furthermore, NCALJ works through committees. The committee work of NCALJ is far superior to the committee work of our association. It is not entirely clear whether in the case of each committee that a significant number of individuals work

or that there are just one or more persons like the chair who is doing the work, but in any event, work is being done which is not the case with out association, except for possibly the Convention Committee, Publications Committee, and the Unemployment Insurance Committee and some other minor elements. I give examples of the work of the NCALJ, some of which work could easily be transferred to our association:

The Committee on Administrative Judiciary and the community--this committee has lapsed for the past several years, but was originally founded for the purpose of meeting with the media and other elements of the community to enlighten them on the role of the Administrative Judiciary. This certainly could be done by a committee of NAALJ.

A committee on Continuing Judicial Education of NCALJ is doing excellent work in connection with the National Judicial College and other seminars that they are preparing.

The Committee on Ethics has prepared a model code of ethics for administrative law judges, and we should not be doing any less.

The Committee on Program presents an annual program each year at the annual meeting of American Bar Association. A committee on the Federal Administrative Law Judge Corps has been working assiduously with various bodies, lobbyist and Congress on their proposal for a Corps bill. . . .

We should note that there is a distinction between NCALJ and our group. NCALJ is funded by the American Bar Association, funding in addition to any dues it receives or collects or is entitled to. Furthermore, NCALJ has the services of a staff person or persons in Chicago, who are paid for by the ABA to do clerical and administrative work.

I think it is important that we consider this approach that NCALJ has been doing and apply it to us as soon as possible.